

COUNTRY

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TOPIC

Military Information from the Weisswasser Troop

Training Grounds

EVALUATION

see below

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

1 to 28 August 1952

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 1 October 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES

2

25X1

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

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1. During the period from 15 to 22 August 1952, the installations of Camp Nochten at the Weisswasser troop training grounds (O 52/A 74) were occupied to capacity. The earth bunkers on the south edge of the AT artillery firing range quartered about 100 soldiers and a field kitchen. Soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and most of them with either tank or artillery insignia but some with signal and motor transport insignia were seen. Most of them were recruits who had closely cropped hair. On 15 August, AT firing was heard. [redacted] one shot about every 5 to 7 minutes. Eight circular tents, each for about 15 soldiers, were set up about 150 meters east of the Nochten-Boxberg road. From 11 p.m. on 19 August until 1:30 a.m. on 20 August continuous firing of heavy caliber weapons was heard from the troop training grounds east of Nochten-Boxberg. On 21 August, two trucks [redacted] each occurred by 20 men equipped with light machine guns, submachine guns and rifles went to the firing range. At 12:30 p.m. on 16 August, a train with 50 [redacted] trucks and about 100 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets was at the Weisswasser railroad station. It was facing toward Spremberg. At noon on 20 August, JS-3 tanks [redacted] were loaded on a freight train headed toward Spremberg at the Weisswasser railroad station.

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2. During the period from 23 to 25 August, eight [redacted] trucks, guarded by sentries wearing black-bordered black epaulets, were at the Weisswasser railroad station. They had apparently been unloaded on 23 August. At 12:45 p.m. on 25 August, five JS tanks arrived at the Weisswasser railroad station and later left toward Camp Nochten. No other unloadings, were observed in

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Weisswasser. A large number of officers and soldiers with and without baggage arrived or departed at the railroad station. Most of them had red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia. A small number had black-bordered crimson epaulets. [redacted] 2.5 25X1

tons of tomatoes, cabbage and cucumbers were daily delivered to the camp. Motor vehicles seen driving to, or from, Camp Nochten [redacted]

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3. During the period from 1 to 23 August, groups of 60 to 300 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying full field pack and light infantry weapons including some with gas masks daily received field training or were engaged in small-scale exercises at the Weisswasser troop training grounds. At 3 p.m. on 20 August, 300 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets practiced rifle combat firing. The soldiers wore their gas masks. Six trucks each towing a 85-mm AT gun with box-spar trails passed through Nochten toward Boxberg. [redacted] 25X1

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[redacted] At about 5 p.m. on 21 August, 40 [redacted] factory-new trucks and 1 JS-2 tank with a red star were unloaded at the Weisswasser railroad station. They had come from the direction of Cottbus. * 25X1

4. In mid-August, six watchtowers, between 8 and 10 meters high, were seen along the Schwarze Schenke area west of Nochten. Four trucks transported construction material to this area on 15 August. ** 25X1

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* Comment. [redacted] the Third Gds Mecz Army [redacted] were continuously seen in Weisswasser [redacted] No other troops were seen in Weisswasser after the arrival of the 9th Mecz Div. Therefore [redacted] can be considered as a confirmation that the division was still at the troop training grounds in late August. [redacted] 25X1

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** Comment. The watchtowers mentioned were possibly built in connection with the enlargement of the training area north of Camp Nochten and east of Nalkenburg. [redacted] 25X1

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